

REMARKS

Claims 80-84, 88-92, and newly added claims 93-110 are currently pending in the present patent application, with claims 76-79 and 85-87 having been cancelled. In an office action mailed March 20, 2003, the Examiner rejected claims 76-79, 82, 83, 85-87, 90 and 91 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,814,842 to Nakagawa *et al.* ("Nakagawa"). Claims 80, 81, 84, 88, 89, and 92 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated as allowable if properly rewritten in independent form.

Claims 80, 81, 88, and 89 have been rewritten in independent form thus are in condition for allowance. All other claims depend directly or indirectly from these independent claims, and are allowable for the same reasons as the independent claims and because of the additional limitations added by each of these dependent claims.

The present patent application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested. The Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the number listed below for a telephone interview if, upon consideration of this amendment, the Examiner determines any pending claims are not in condition for allowance. The undersigned also requests the Examiner to direct all future correspondence to the address set forth below in the event the Examiner shows a different correspondence address for the attorney of record.

Respectfully submitted,
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PFR:asw

Enclosures:

Postcard

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Fee Transmittal Sheet (+ copy)

Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement (+ copy)

Form PTO-1449 with Cited References (3)

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